

CLAIMS

1. A peripheral device (125) for a data processing system (100) including a mechanical keyboard (130) having a plurality of keys (135) for entering information into the data processing system when the keys are pressed,

5 characterized in that the peripheral device further includes a configurable unit (140) for displaying a visual representation of a plurality of further keys (145) for entering information into the data processing system when the further keys are selected.

2. The peripheral device (125) according to claim 1, wherein the configurable unit includes a touch-screen (140), the further keys being selected when touched.

3. The peripheral device (125) according to claim 1 or 2, 15 further including a main body (205) having a first surface (210) and a second surface (215) opposed to the first surface, the first surface carrying the mechanical keyboard (130) and the second surface carrying the configurable unit (140), wherein the mechanical keyboard (130) is accessible to a user of the data processing system when the peripheral device is in 20 a first operative position with the first surface (210) turned upwards and the configurable unit (140) is accessible to the user when the peripheral device is in a second operative position with the second surface (215) turned upwards.

25 4. The peripheral device (125) according to claim 3, further including means (225a, 225b) for spacing the keys (135) apart from a surface (103) bearing the peripheral device in the second operative position.

5. The peripheral device (125) according to any claim from 1 30 to 4, further including switching means (500) for alternatively enabling the mechanical keyboard (130) or the configurable unit (140).

6. The peripheral device (125) according to claim 5, wherein the switching means includes a sensor (500) for detecting the position of the peripheral device, the mechanical keyboard (130) being enabled when the peripheral device is in the first operative position and the configurable unit (140) being enabled when the peripheral device is in the second operative position.

7. The peripheral device (125) according to any claim from 1 to 6, further including means (150) for displaying output information on the configurable unit (140).

8. A data processing system (100;300) including the peripheral device (125;320) according to any claim from 1 to 7.

9. The data processing system (300) according to claim 8, further including a central unit (305) and means (340,345) for pivoting the peripheral device (320) around the central unit and for sliding an internal edge of the peripheral device along the central unit between a first end of stroke and a second end of stroke, the peripheral device being folded down the central unit in the first operative position or in the second operative position when the internal edge is at the first end of stroke or at the second end of stroke, respectively.

10. The data processing system (300) according to claim 9, further including latching means (350f,355t;350r,355k) for latching the peripheral device (320) in the first operative position or in the second operative position.

11. The data processing system (300) according to claim 10, wherein the latching means (350f,355t;350r,355k) includes first command means (405f) for unlatching the peripheral device (320) when in the first operative position, second command means (405r) for unlatching the peripheral device when in the second

operative position, and means (360t,360k) for providing an indication identifying the first command means or the second command means when the peripheral device is in the first operative position or in the second operative position, 5 respectively.

12. A method of operating a data processing system (100) including the steps of:

entering information into the data processing system by pressing a plurality of keys (135) of a mechanical keyboard 10 (130) included in a peripheral device (125),

characterized by the steps of

displaying a visual representation of a plurality of further keys (145) on a configurable unit (140) included in the peripheral device, and

15 entering information into the data processing system by selecting the further keys.